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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Three types of Farmers' Cooperative Guilds¹ in North Korea were operating during 1954. The first type was organized privately by a group of farmers to aid each other in farming tasks. No member gave up property or shared harvests. In the second-type guild, which was the most prevalent in North Korea, the farmers surrendered all their personal property to the guild. In return they received yields in proportion to their contribution of land and tools and to the size of their families. This second-type guild received government backing but was independent of any political organization. In January 1954 a second-type guild was organized at Tokchin (N 41-40, E 129-43) (EB585135).
2. The third-type guild was similar to the second type in that the farmers surrendered all their personal property to the guild. The yields they received, however, were in proportion to the amount of labor they expended, for which they were graded by the guild chief. Third-type guilds were strongly backed by all levels of the Korean Labor Party (KLP) but were organized at the ri level and were independent of gun political organizations. Fields of third-type guilds were in the Susong-dong area: 1,500 pyong² of wheat and corn land at EB558112; 2,000 pyong of wheat and corn land at EB556112; 1,500 pyong of rice paddies at EB561108; 1,400 pyong of rice paddies at EB552117; 1,400 pyong of potato land at EB559119; 22,000 pyong of rice paddies at EB565119; 1,400 pyong of corn fields at EB563117; 3,000 pyong of potato land at EB575115; and 2,000 pyong of vegetable land at EB565122, which adjoin another 1,400 pyong of rice paddies.
3. During 1954, most of the farms in the Susong-dong area belonged to first-type guilds. There were no second-type guilds, and only two percent of the farms were independently managed. In January 1954, a Farmers' Cooperative Guild of the third type was organized in Susong-dong (N 41-49, E 129-44) (EB609301).

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In its initial stages, the guild tried to obtain the most fertile fields in the area and those adjacent to each other; but it was not entirely successful in its attempt to move out independents by giving them land elsewhere. A stubborn, independent farmer in the middle of the large 22,000 pyong strip at EB565119 refused to move off his ancestral land. He was subjected to great pressure, however, and as of August 1954 the guild expected he would be forced off his land by the spring of 1955.

4. At the opening of this third-type guild in Susong-dong, a KLP leader told the people that the government desired 70 percent of all the farmers to belong to third-type guilds. He emphasized the fact that those who joined would immediately enjoy a rise in their living standards. Out of a total population of 200 families, 16 families joined in January 1954, but by August 1954 the number remained the same. A few months after joining, many of these families became very dissatisfied. They complained that though they had more fertilizer, their spring harvest was little better than that of any independent farmer, and that the guild system forced them to work too hard all the time. Although theoretically a farmer could leave the guild and recover his tools and land, none dared to do so for fear of being permanently blacklisted.
5. Lands belonging to guilds of the third-type were assessed at the same rates as those of the independent farmers; on 1,400 pyong of potato land a tax-in-kind of fifty-six 50-kilogram bags was assessed. The protests of the guild chief were unheeded, even at the gun office.
6. By the fall of 1954 the government was still attempting to increase the number of third-type guilds; but though there was propaganda to the effect that the government would not support the independent farmer, there was no direct pressure applied to force him to join a guild.

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2. Comment. One pyong is the equivalent of 3.9537 square yards.

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